

to the floor now to help our hard-work-
ing families.

COAL TO LIQUID AS AN ALTERNATIVE ENERGY

(Mr. STEARNS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. STEARNS. Madam Speaker, according to the Energy Information Agency, the United States currently imports 60 percent of its oil, and that number is expected to rise to 75 percent in the coming decades. As a country, we need to reduce our dependency on foreign fuel sources and start implementing alternative energy sources that can be found here in the United States.

Imported fuels such as crude oil and natural gas are costing this country millions of dollars a year, accounting for about one-third of the U.S. trade deficit. At \$45 a barrel, liquid coal fuel is a desirable alternative to the \$120 or more barrel of oil. Not only does this innovative fuel cost less, but also coal is one of the most abundant resources in our country.

As Congress continues to explore the use of alternative energy sources, we need to look closely at the enormous benefits of coal-to-liquid technology.

PENCE DEMANDS ACTION ON HIGH GAS PRICES

(Mr. PENCE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PENCE. The national average cost of gasoline at the pump today is \$3.98 a gallon. When I was home over the Memorial Day break, one Hoosier after another stopped and asked me the same question. They said, MIKE, what is it going to take? What is it going to take for Congress to take action to give the American people more access to American oil?

The reality is today that the Democrat majority thinks that we can tax our way to lower gasoline prices. A few weeks ago, they actually passed legislation suggesting we could actually sue our way to lower gasoline prices. But the American people know the only way to lessen our dependence on foreign oil is to lessen our dependence on foreign oil.

We must take action now to allow additional drilling in environmentally responsible ways on American soil off American shores so the American people can increase global supply, reduce the price of oil, and bring real relief to families and businesses and farmers at the pump.

ENVIRONMENTALISTS HAVE GONE BATTY

(Mr. POE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. POE. Madam Speaker, out on the arid, dusty high plains of west Texas, where the land was once the home of thousands of oil derricks, the landscape is now dotted with windmills—the new turbine clean energy. Texas is the wind energy capital of North America, supplying power to over 1 million homes.

But now the environmental fear lobby wants to stop these turbines because they may pose a threat to bats and birds. They are the same radicals who have successfully prevented America from drilling for more crude oil at home, like in west Texas. These are the same batty people who have demanded we go to wind energy in the first place.

Now they are worried about the bats and the birds that fly at night may be running into the windmills. Of course, there is no evidence to support this bat mania claim. Anyway, we all learned in third grade bats have a radar-like ability to navigate at night in caves and open terrain. The National Academy of Sciences stated: Birds have more to fear from high buildings, power lines, and cats than they do from the blades of windmills.

We cannot allow the rich elites of the environmental fear lobby to destroy America's energy production. Otherwise, we will all end up going back living in the dark caves, with the bats.

And that's just the way it is.

WHY ISN'T AMERICA DOING MORE?

(Mr. BRADY of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Madam Speaker, back home in Texas I visited with families whose cost is so high that one woman in Bridge City told me she doesn't even go to Wednesday night church. She can't afford to drive to it. Just on Sunday. I talked to small businesses that now work, painters and plumbers and others, who now basically work for free because gas prices have eaten up all their profits. I visited this last week with our law enforcement agencies, who are no longer able to be proactive in the community. They are just responding to calls because they burned through much of their fuel budget for the year already.

In each case, every one of them asked me, Why isn't America doing more? Why isn't America taking more responsibility for our own energy needs? We import two-thirds of all we use. We are capable of doing more. In each case, they said, Look, take a message back to Congress. No more gimmicks. No more gimmicks. We need more American-made energy here in the United States to get our fuel prices down, to be less dependent on Middle East fuel, to have some say over the prices that our families and small businesses pay.

COMPREHENSIVE ENERGY STRATEGY

(Mr. BOUSTANY asked and was given permission to address the House

for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BOUSTANY. Madam Speaker, as oil prices continue to climb, increasing American energy production is critical to meeting this challenge. Yesterday, the Department of Energy announced a \$715,000 grant to my alma mater, the University of Louisiana at Lafayette, to develop more effective ways to drill for oil. Students and professors will work together, along with industry, to achieve higher energy yields from each drilling hole. Better exploration and drilling procedures and techniques are just two parts of a comprehensive energy strategy that we need to have because a magic bullet will not solve our energy challenges. It will not lower the price at the pump alone. We need a comprehensive strategy.

People of southwest Louisiana and around the country want to increase responsible energy production, they want to see increased refining capacity, they want to unleash American entrepreneurship and ingenuity to solve our energy problems, and they don't want any further delays because gas at the pump, as you can see, is just short of \$4 a gallon.

We have to stop the delay and have a comprehensive energy solution. I challenge the Democratic leadership to work with us and stop the delay. Let's get a solution to our energy problems.

RESULTS OF NOT DEVELOPING AMERICAN ENERGY

(Mr. AKIN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. AKIN. As America is becoming painfully aware, there has been a result of us not developing American energy. We have reports of police cars sitting idle because of the cost of gasoline; various assembly lines and automobile manufacturers closed down because of the fact that there's no demand for the type of vehicles that are being produced. We have a situation where parents have a hard time just putting enough gasoline in the tank to get the kids to school. And we have the AAA saying that the increase in motorists without gas has increased 15 percent.

Since Speaker PELOSI took office, gasoline prices have skyrocketed 71 percent. Now, I am an engineer. The good news is there's a solution to this. It's called American energy. We need to stop looking at the American energy as something that is an environmental hazard and rather look at it as an asset that we can develop.

The Democrats, year after year after year, 85 percent of the time, are voting against increasing supplies of American energy. We have to develop our own energy.